

2018-2019

MPS SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID



MERCYHURST Preparatory School

A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

Sending a student to Mercyhurst Prep is one of the most important decisions you can make on his or her behalf. An MPS education offers young men and women educational opportunities that simply do not exist anywhere else. An investment in a Mercyhurst Prep education is an investment in your child's future.

It is also a major financial commitment. At MPS we believe that every student should have this potentially life changing opportunity and that family income should not be a deciding factor.

That's why nearly **\$950,000** in scholarships and financial aid was awarded last year. This could not be done without the support of the Mercyhurst Seminary/Mercyhurst Prep family, including our wonderful alumni, family of alumni/current students, and community supporters to whom we are eternally grateful.

MPS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS/GRANTS

We at Mercyhurst Prep are committed to keeping the costs of education affordable. Our aim is to make our quality education accessible to as many students as possible.

In addition to the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program, MPS offers a variety of financial alternatives. Eligibility for most forms of aid is based on need. Numerous scholarships are granted in the areas of academics, arts, activities, and leadership.

Academic Scholarships

All students with high academic standing who wish to apply for MPS scholarships must submit a scholarship form to the MPS Finance Office by March 1, 2018. **Current students generally need to have a minimum weighted GPA of 3.5 to qualify.** Students must reapply annually.

Alumni Scholarships (Financial or Academic)

Between two and six alumni scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen. The applicant must be the child/stepchild, grandchild or great grandchild of a Mercyhurst Seminary/Preparatory School graduate. **Only students entering ninth grade may apply.** The scholarships are

based on academics and/or financial need. **To be eligible for the Financial Need Scholarship, applicants must be sure to fill out the FACTS Grant & Aid application and provide all required tax documentation.** A link to the application can be found on the MPS website. **This must be submitted by March 1, 2018.** It is **NOT** necessary to complete the FACTS Grant & Aid application if you are applying for the academic Alumni Scholarship only. These scholarships will be renewable each year provided that a B average and proper behavior standards are maintained.

Creative Arts

The student must present evidence of artistic talent through a required audition and/or portfolio. Scholarships will be awarded in the areas of art, dance, music, and theatre. **Scholarship form must be submitted by March 1, 2018. Auditions - March 12, 2018.**

Foreign Language

To qualify, a student must be registered for a 3rd or 4th year of language at Mercyhurst Prep and submit a typed essay to the language department by **March 1, 2018.** Contact **Mrs. Comstock** at ccomstock@mplslakers.com.

The Catherine McAuley Scholarship

The Catherine McAuley Scholarship, in memory of Msgr. John R. Snyder, is offered to incoming freshmen currently attending a Catholic Elementary school. The one-time \$1,000 scholarship will be based on a one page essay on why their Catholic education is so important to them with consideration given to those in financial need. The application deadline is **March 1, 2018.**

Merit Based Entrance Exam Scholarship

First round applicants (application to MPS must be received by November 10) are eligible for one of 10 \$1,000 awards given to the top ten scorers on the MPS entrance exam (Sat., Nov. 18, 9 AM). Students must take the entrance exam at MPS to be considered.

More than 50% of our students currently attend MPS with the assistance of scholarships or financial aid.

FINANCIAL NEED

Financial need is the difference between the estimated cost of attendance for a school year and the estimated family contribution. Because several factors are subject to change from one year to the next, this evaluation is made annually for each student who applies for financial aid.

The size of the financial aid award is determined by the information provided on the financial aid application. Factors such as income, assets, liabilities, family size, and number of dependent siblings in college or private schools are considered in determining a financial aid award.

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Mercyhurst Prep offers need-based financial aid to deserving students. This aid is awarded based on the information acquired by the FACTS Grant and Aid application. **Those applying for need-based aid from MPS must be sure to complete the FACTS Grant and Aid application no later than March 1, 2018. FACTS applications using 2016 tax returns may be submitted immediately after applying to MPS for estimated unofficial preliminary financial aid award information.** Mercyhurst Prep will utilize information from the FACTS Grant and Aid to award official Mercyhurst Prep need-based financial aid after 2017 W-2s are submitted and reviewed. The link for the application to FACTS can be found on the MPS website.

Diocese of Erie

The Catholic Diocese of Erie offers need-based financial aid to deserving students regardless of religious background. **Any student applying for financial aid must submit to the Diocese of Erie the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) application by March 1, 2018.**

This form may be obtained from Mercyhurst Prep, any Catholic elementary school, or the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office and the Diocesan website, www.eriercd.org.

What is the current tuition for the 2017-2018 academic year?

The tuition for the 2017-2018 academic year is \$9,300. The tuition for the 2018-2019 academic year will be determined in early April.

TUITION PAYMENT

MPS has contracted with FACTS Management Company to help us better plan how to use our financial resources and manage our tuition collection program. FACTS serves over 1800 schools nationally and is used by nearly 200,000 families. Families can choose one of three options to pay tuition:

1. Full payment is due in July. This payment will be made directly to the school. It will not be necessary to fill out FACTS contract information.
2. Term payments are due in July, October, and January. The FACTS contract must be completed online in early June. A term payment fee applies to families choosing this option.
3. Ten monthly payments start in July and end in April. Payments can be made on the 5th or 20th of the month. The FACTS contract must be completed online in early June. A term payment fee applies to families choosing this option.
4. FACTS payments can be made through checking or savings accounts or charged to your Mastercard, Discover or American Express. We believe that this service is an asset to our school and our families. Be assured that neither FACTS nor MPS has direct access to or any knowledge about the status of your bank account. Your bank makes the payment for you directly to FACTS on the day authorized by you.

PAYMENTS MUST BE CURRENT FOR YOUR STUDENT TO BEGIN EACH NEW TERM.

Additional information and applications are available at:
mpslakers.com/admissions

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MPS 8th Grade Honors Classes

During 8th grade, gifted students have the opportunity to attend MPS during the first period of the day and take one or two high school honors courses. Per course tuition is greatly reduced at \$225 for the first course and \$100 for each additional course. If the student attends MPS, high school credit is awarded. Students are recommended for this program by their school principal.

iPad Initiative

Thanks to the **Bill and Audrey Hirt Education and Technology Initiative**, every MPS freshman receives a new iPad which they use daily to blend state-of-the-art classroom technology with best educational practice. Our faculty receives extensive ongoing training on integrating the iPad into the curriculum. Both faculty and students are supported by a full time technology expert and coach. MPS graduates receive ownership after graduation.

For more information please contact the MPS
Treasurer's Office at 814.824.2315.